



Pet Safety Tips



Make sure your pet has proper identification. More dogs go missing on July 4 than any other day of the year. An up-to-date tag greatly increases the chance of a lost pet being returned; make sure that your pet always wears identification. If your pet is microchipped, check to make sure your information is on file and up to date. If you have not yet microchipped your pet, schedule an appointment with us to have it done- the sooner the better!



Keep your pets on their normal diet. Any diet change, even for one meal, can give your pets severe indigestion and diarrhea. This is particularly true for older animals who have more delicate digestive systems and nutritional requirements. Keep in mind that foods such as onions, chocolate, coffee, avocado, grapes/raisins, salt and yeast dough can all be potentially toxic to companion animals. Heavily seasoned meats can also be hard on your pets gastrointestinal system, make the grill off limits and ask party guest to avoid feeding your pet BBQ scraps.



Never leave alcoholic drinks unattended where pets can reach them.

Alcoholic beverages have the potential to poison pets. If ingested, the animal could become very intoxicated and weak, severely depressed or could go into a coma. Death from respiratory failure is also a possibility in severe cases.



Always keep matches and lighter fluid out of your pets' reach. Certain types of matches contain chlorates, which could potentially damage blood cells and result in difficulty breathing—or even kidney disease in severe cases. Lighter fluid can be irritating to skin, and if ingested can produce gastrointestinal irritation and central nervous system depression. If lighter fluid is inhaled, aspiration pneumonia and breathing problems could develop.



Do not apply any sunscreen or insect repellent product to your pet that is not labeled specifically for use on animals. Ingestion of sunscreen products can result in drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst and lethargy. The misuse of insect repellent that contains DEET can lead to neurological problems.

Keep citronella candles, insect coils and oil products out of reach, ingestion can produce stomach irritation and possibly even central nervous system depression. If inhaled, the oils could cause aspiration pneumonia in pets.



Never use fireworks around pets! Exposure to lit fireworks can potentially result in severe burns and/or trauma to the face and paws of curious pets, even unused fireworks can pose a danger. Many types of fireworks contain potentially toxic substances, including potassium nitrate, arsenic and other heavy metals.

Loud, crowded fireworks displays are no fun for pets, so please resist the urge to take them to Independence Day festivities. Instead, keep your furry friends safe from the noise in a quiet, sheltered and escape-proof area at home.



If you feel that your pet may need something to calm their nerves during loud festivities, ask us today so we can advise you on what is appropriate specifically for your pet.

Reference: ASPCA

